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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,678	08/01/2001	Ralf Wichmann	LE 00/032 (7244*111)	6224

23416 7590 11/18/2002

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ, LLP
1220 N MARKET STREET
P O BOX 2207
WILMINGTON, DE 19899

EXAMINER

LE, HOA VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2002

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/919,678

Applicant(s)

WICHMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Hoa V. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 01 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-30 and 37-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 37-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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This is in response to the Amendment filed on 13 November 2002.

- A. In claims 44 and 45, "gm²" should be corrected to be ---g/m²---. A proper correction is requested and required.
- B. Dependent claims 42-46 have their preamble being connected to a beach or beach-fixing "solution" but are carried nothing being related the solution. They are rather carried the limitations being related to a photographic material to be processed in the photographic processing solution. Therefore, they are subjected to a restriction. The record also shows that they have not been considered or searched in the elected "solution".
- C. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claims 37-41, drawn to a solution, classified in class 430 , subclass 461.
 - II. Claims 42-46, drawn to a photographic material, classified in class 430, subclass 495.1.

The inventions of Group I and Group II are related to the materials but are patentably different and distinct and have acquired the separate status and searches in the art and can be supported the separate patents as set up in the separate claims by applicants and have no evidence of the record that they are not required the separate consideration and search since they are the obvious variants because the prior art being applied to one of them would be sufficient against all inventions, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Applicant

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should show or provide an evidence to the contrary. In the absence of convincing evidence, the restriction would not be removed.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired the separate status in the art and can support the separate patents as divided by applicants and have no evidence of the record that they are not patentably different or distinct and are the obvious variants under 35 U.S.C. 103 to one having ordinary skill in the art since no separate consideration or search is necessitated or required because a prior art being applied against one invention is sufficient against all of them, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

D. At the present time as the elected claim solution limitation as set up, it is found that Price et al (6,365,332) may be used in an interference process. Eastman Kodak Company may also have a reasonable and close timewise to request an interference process and decision since the foreign priority date of German application on 04 August 2000 is less than one month prior to the filing date on 07 September 2002 of application 09/657,022 now patent no. 6,365,332 by providing a laboratory notebook having a date prior to 04 August 2002 at any time. Applicants are now notified.

E. Other issues have not been considered until a proper election is made and resolved.

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F. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoa V. Le whose telephone number is 703-308-2295. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30AM-5:00PM, M-TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Baxter can be reached on 703-308-2303. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7172 for regular communications and 703-746-7172 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Hoa V. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

HVL.

18 November 2002

HOA VAN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Hoa Van Le